GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:938
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2005
MSP FOR MINOR FOREST PRODUCTS
Ramadass Prof. M

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the absence of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Products is a main hurdle faced by Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation in commercial operation;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith measures taken by the Government to fix the MSP for Minor Forest Products;

(c) whether the Ministry has taken up this matter with the Ministry of Environment and Forests;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is intending to set up a separate fund to stabilise prices of major/minor forest products and to ensure remunerative prices to the tribal people; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH)

(a) to (d) In terms of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, the Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED) is a multi-State cooperative society.

TRIFED amended its Bye-Laws in April, 2003 to be in tune with the requirement of the said Act- As per the amended Bye-Laws, the main object of TRIFED`s role and function is to act as a service provider and facilitator for marketing development of tribal products. Consequently TRIFED is no more involved in direct procurement of agricultural produce or Minor Forest Produce (MFP) from tribals.

The matter of fixing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) was earlier taken up with the Ministry of Environment & Forests. But that Ministry felt that fixation of the support price was the direct concern of State Governments.

The issue of fixing MSP for five major MFPs, namely, Mahua Flower, Honey, Mahua Seed, Tamarind and Sal Seed is now under consideration of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

(e)&(f) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.